




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Children's Sport

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.11 pm): It is winter sport season which, in my house, means soccer season. Last Saturday morning my little fellow, Heath, went off to play for his under-7s team, the Oxley Devils. It is his first season and, let us just say, he is still finding his sea legs. I am embarrassed to say that I have been known to get so carried away with cheering for my son that, after 10 minutes into his first game, I was sent to the sin-bin by my son for being too excited watching the game. He lost that game and a few others to the mighty Richlands Lions, but that is not point. The point of playing is teamwork, mateship and a love of fitness—and it is catching on right across the Mount Ommaney electorate.

After the game, we headed off to the Oxley bakery and I saw dozens of sweaty little soccer stars from the Centenary Stormers as well as from his Oxley United team. Later that afternoon I travelled to the brilliant Curragundi Street festival, which was organised by Lisa B and her team, where I saw some tired but triumphant Jindalee Jags and some superstar St Cats as well as the Little As and Stormers players. This year, St Cats had an absolutely bumper sign-on season down at the Middle Park shops.

I think it is really important to note that clubs like the Jags, the Centenary Little As and the Centenary Netball Club would grind to a screeching halt without the hard work of club board members and volunteers such as Bill Gaydon, Paula Callahan from the St Cats soccer club and Kay from Little As. The referees and coaches give their time, their patience and their skills to our kids and parents and communities owe them a debt of gratitude.

I also want to mention that a few weeks ago my son's team had the silent Saturday where we were not allowed to cheer. It is rather like this chamber right now. It is quite beautiful. The kids commented that they loved the fact that the parents were not there egging them on. I have resolved to try to be quieter on the sidelines from now on.

In just a few weeks we will have trophy season underway. I will be there this Sunday to congratulate the West Brisbane Falcons, our very own basketball club, which fields more than 50 teams. I know that I am not the only member in this House with awesome local clubs in their electorate like the Western Bulldogs baseball club, which has just received funding for new batting cages in time for the summer season.

I say to the mums and dads of the Mount Ommaney electorate that, if their kids are not signed up to a local team yet, the Minister for Sports has just released another round of FairPlay vouchers. If parents need some financial assistance in order to get their kids in the game, they can head over to my Facebook page to have a look. As a proud soccer mum, it is great to see so many kids getting in the game.